

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 6, 2003

Contact: Roy Stearns

(916) 654-7538

Sierra District (530) 525-7232

Winter Fun in Sierra-Area California State Parks

Sierra-area California State Park visitors have a variety of snow-fun opportunities available.

Whether it's a winter hike, a moonlit tour, cross-country skiing or wildlife viewing, California State Parks has something for everyone.

A number of parks are open for day-use (although some roads may not be plowed) and some are open for camping. It's always a good idea to call ahead for current conditions. The department's Sierra District phone number is (530) 525-7232.

Emerald Bay State Park

The park is located 22 miles south of Tahoe City on Highway 89.

Emerald Bay Snowshoe Hike at Emerald Bay State Park

Sunday January 19

Explore beautiful Emerald Bay State Park in winter. Join our ranger on a hike down to Vikingsholm and explore the park for signs of animals in winter, keep your eye out for our bald eagles. Participants should be in good condition and have some experience the return trip is steep.

Difficulty: Easy down but moderate ascent on the return due to steepness and elevation gain.

Duration: 2-3 hours

Meet: 10 a.m. at the Vikingsholm overlook parking lot at Emerald Bay State Park

Tips: Bring cross-country snowshoe equipment, lunch, snacks, water, sun block eye protection and layered clothing.

Information: (530) 525-9528

Donner Memorial State Park

The park is located on Donner Pass Road, two miles west of Truckee.

There are groomed ski trails throughout park
For more information, call (530) 582-7892.

Donner Party History at Donner Memorial State Park

Saturday, January 18

Come learn some interesting facts about the Donner Party. Where did they camp? Why did they make some of the decisions they did? We will hike approximately 1 to 1 1/2 miles of easy terrain. Two hours.

Meet: 10 a.m. Emigrant Trail Museum at Donner State Park

Bring: Snowshoes, sturdy waterproof boots, ski poles, snack, and water.

Wear: Layers and be prepared for windy conditions. Wear eye protection.

Information: (530) 582-7892

Full Moon Ski Tour at Donner Memorial State Park

Saturday, January 18

Come ski with us on this easy moon light tour. We will enjoy en-route snacks and look for wilderness nightlife. This will be cancelled if weather turns bad.

No snowshoes. Enjoy a campfire at China Cove!

Difficulty: Easy three miles round trip

Duration: 4 hours

Meet: 7 p.m. at the Emigrant Trail Museum parking lot.

Tips: Bring cross-country skis, trail snacks, binoculars and warm clothing.

Information: (530) 582-7892

Peak Hike at Donner Memorial State Park

Sunday, January 19

Participants should be in good condition and have some experience snowshoeing. Moderate to difficult hike with uphill sections. Approximately six miles. 3-4 hours

Meet: 10 a.m. Emigrant Trail Museum at Donner State Park

Bring: Snowshoes, sturdy waterproof boots, ski poles, snack, and water.

Wear: Layers and be prepared for windy conditions. Wear eye protection.

Information: (530) 582-7892

Beginning Snowshoe Hike at Donner Memorial State Park

Saturday, January 25

Learn the history of snowshoeing and some beginning techniques. If you have never been on snowshoes and would to try it this is the hike for you. Participants should be in fairly good condition. We will hike approximately two miles of varied terrain as we explore the winter wilderness of Donner State Park.

Meet: 10 a.m. Emigrant Trail Museum at Donner State Park

Bring: Snowshoes, sturdy waterproof boots, ski poles, snack, and water.

Wear: Layers and be prepared for windy conditions. Wear eye protection.
 Information: (530) 582-7892

Grover Hot Springs State Park

The park is located three miles west of Markleeville on Hot Springs Road.

Normal Pool hours for the winter are Monday through Friday 2 p.m. to 9 p.m.,
 Saturday and Sunday Noon to 9 p.m. Closed Christmas and New Years Day.
 The park itself closes early, 6 p.m. on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve
 Adult's fee raised from \$2 to \$3 on January 1, 2003
 For more information, call (530) 694-2649.

Animals in Winter at Grover Hot Springs State Park

Saturday, January 11

Discover how different animals survive the winter during this snowshoe hike in search of active winter animals.

Difficulty: Easy one mile

Duration: 2 hours

Meet: 11 a.m. at Grover Hot Springs campground entrance station

Tips: Bring snowshoes, winter hiking boots, layered clothing, sunglasses & sunscreen.

Information: Contact Mark Pupich at (530) 694-2649.

Meadow Ski Tour at Grover Hot Springs State Park

Saturday, January 25

Enjoy a pleasant ski around the meadows.

Difficulty: Easy/beginner 2 miles

Duration: 2 hours

Meet: 11 a.m. at Grover Hot Springs upper pool parking lot.

Tips: Bring snowshoes, winter hiking boots, layered clothing, sunglasses, sunscreen. Call to make sure we have snow.

Information: Contact Mark Pupich at (530) 694-2649

Plumas-Eureka State Park

The park is located four miles west of Graeagle, County Road A-14.

When Snowshoes Were King at Plumas Eureka State Park

Sunday, January 12

There will be a slide program/talk, at 1p.m. at the park museum. Information: (530) 836-2380

Winter Ecology Ski Tour at Plumas Eureka State Park

Sunday, January 26

Cross-country Ski Tour, length approximately tree miles, time approximately three hours. Meet at the park museum parking lot at 1pm.

Information: (530) 836-2380

Sugar Pine Point State Park

The park is located ten miles south of Tahoe City on Highway 89.

General Creek Campground is open for winter camping. Groomed ski trails are throughout park. For more information, call (530) 525-7232.

**Children's Cross-country Ski Tour (Ages 4, 5 and 6 only) at Sugar Pine Point State Park
Saturday, January 11**

This is a casual cross-country ski tour for those who would like a guided opportunity to ski the park with their children. The one-mile tour on level terrain requires some previous experience with equipment. A parent must accompany their child/children.

Difficulty: Easy and fun

Duration: 1-2 hours

Meet: 10 a.m. at Sugar Pine Point ski trail parking lot near the campground kiosk.

Tips: Bring cross-country ski equipment, lunch, snacks, water, sun block, and eye protection.

Information: (530) 525-3341

**Children's Snowshoe Tour (Ages 4, 5 and 6 only) at Sugar Pine Point State Park
Saturday, January 11**

This is a casual cross-country snowshoe tour for those who would like a guided opportunity to snowshoe the park with their children. The one-mile tour on level terrain requires some previous experience with equipment. A parent must accompany their child/children.

Difficulty: Easy and fun

Duration: 1-2 hours

Meet: 2 p.m. at Sugar Pine Point ski trail parking lot near the campground kiosk.

Tips: Bring cross-country snowshoe equipment, lunch, snacks, water, sun block, and eye protection.

Information: (530) 525-3341

Animal Tracks at Sugar Pine Point State Park

Sunday, January 12

Animals can leave a good impression in the winter white stuff. What stories do tracks tell? Join us to solve the mysteries and make some tracks of your own.

Difficulty: Easy and fun

Duration: 3 hours

Meet: 10 a.m. at Sugar Pine Point ski trail parking lot near the campground entrance station.

Tips: Bring cross-country snowshoe equipment, layered clothing, binoculars, lunch, snacks, water, sun block, and eye protection.

Info: (530) 525-9528

**Intermediate Cross Country Ski Tour at Sugar Pine Point State Park
Saturday, January 18**

This is a casual cross-country ski tour for those who would like a guided opportunity to ski the park. The five-mile tour on moderate terrain requires some previous experience with equipment and varying conditions.

Difficulty: Moderate to difficult

Duration: 3-4 hours

Meet: 10 a.m. at Sugar Pine Point ski trail parking lot near the campground kiosk.

Tips: Bring cross-country ski equipment, lunch, snacks, water, and sun block eye protection.

Information: (530) 525-3341

Full Moon Tour to Olympic Meadows at Sugar Pine Point State Park

Saturday, January 18

Come ski with us on this easy moon light tour. We will follow the General Creek Drainage, enjoy en-route snacks and look for wilderness nightlife. This will be cancelled if weather turns bad. No snowshoes.

Difficulty: Easy five miles round trip

Duration: 4 hours

Meet: 7 p.m. at the Sugar Pine Point ski trail parking lot.

Tips: Bring cross-country skis, trail snacks, binoculars and warm clothing.

Information: (530) 525-9528

Intermediate Cross-country Ski Tour at Sugar Pine Point State Park

Saturday, January 25

This is a casual cross-country ski tour for those who would like a guided opportunity to ski the park. The five-mile tour on moderate terrain requires some previous experience with equipment and varying conditions.

Difficulty: Moderate to difficult

Duration: 3-4 hours

Meet: 10 a.m. at Sugar Pine Point ski trail parking lot near the campground kiosk.

Tips: Bring cross-country ski equipment, lunch, snacks, water, and sun block eye protection.

Information: (530) 525-3341

Animal Tracks at Sugar Pine Point State Park

Sunday, January 26

Animals can leave a good impression in the winter white stuff. What stories do tracks tell? Join us to solve the mysteries and make some tracks of your own.

Difficulty: Easy and fun

Duration: 3 hours

Meet: 10 a.m. at Sugar Pine Point ski trail parking lot near the campground entrance station.

Tips: Bring cross-country snowshoe equipment, layered clothing, binoculars, lunch, snacks, water, sun block, eye protection.

Information: (530) 525-9528

California SNO-PARK Locations

2002/2003 Winter Season

There are a number of off-road locations for snow fun.

To find a sales outlet to buy a permit, visitors should check the following online locations.
(Adobe Acrobat Reader is needed to open them.)

[Sno-Park AAA Vendors List.pdf](#)

[Sno-Park Vendors List .pdf](#)

The Sno Park Hotline (916) 324-1222

CARSON PASS (Alpine County)

Highway 88 at Carson Pass, 60 miles east of Jackson (25 miles south of Lake Tahoe).
Very popular cross-country ski area. No snowmobiles. Limited snow play area; no sled slope.
Information:

U.S. Forest Service
209-295-4251
Capacity 25 cars

HOPE VALLEY (Alpine County)

Hwy. 88 five miles east of Carson Pass; two miles west of Picketts Junction (Hwy. 88/89). Good snow play; groomed snowmobile trails; cross-country skiing. Some overnight parking.

Information:
U.S. Forest Service
775-884-8101
Capacity 80 cars

LAKE ALPINE (Alpine County)

Highway 4, 30 miles east of Angels Camp, just past turnoff to Mt. Reba Ski Area. Crowded weekends. Excellent cross-country skiing; groomed snowmobile trails. Good snow play; no sled slope.

Information:
U.S. Forest Service
209-795-1381
Capacity 35 cars

MEISS MEADOW (Alpine County)

Highway 88, 1/4 mile west of Carson Pass (See Carson Pass Sno-Park). Very popular cross-country ski area. No snowmobiles. Limited snow play; no sled slope.

Information:

U.S. Forest Service

209-295-4251

Capacity 30 cars

SPICER (Calaveras County)

Highway 4, 24 miles east of Angels Camp at Spicer Road. Good snow play; groomed snowmobile trails; cross-country skiing.

Information:

U.S. Forest Service

209-795-1381

Capacity 20 cars

ECHO LAKE (El Dorado County)

Off Highway 50, north side, one mile west of Echo Summit—Echo Lake Road 1/2 mile to Sno-Park. Popular cross-country ski area. No snowmobiles. Poor snow play area.

Information: 530-644-6048

Capacity 40 cars

ECHO SUMMIT (El Dorado County)

Highway 50, on south side, at Echo Summit. Popular snow play area; extensive sledding hill. Very crowded weekends/holidays. Some cross-country skiing; no snowmobiles. Snacks, Sno-Park permits, winter recreation gear available on-site.

Information: 530-644-6048

Capacity 120 cars

IRON MOUNTAIN (El Dorado County)

Highway 88, 40 miles east of Jackson on Mormon-Emigrant Trail Road. Excellent groomed snowmobile trails; fair cross-country skiing. Good snow play; no sled slope.

Information:

U.S. Forest Service

209-295-4251

Capacity 40 cars

TAYLOR CREEK (El Dorado County)

West side of Highway 89 near Camp Richardson. Cross-country skiing to Fallen Leaf Lake. Limited snowmobile use. Snow play (small sledding hill).

Information:

U.S. Forest Service

530-573-2600

Capacity 40 cars

BALSAM MEADOWS (Fresno County)

North side of Hwy. 168, 60 miles northeast of Fresno. Best snow play area on Hwy. 168; no sled slope. No snowmobiles. Ample parking.

Information:

Pineridge Ranger District

559-855-5360

Open every day from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Capacity 20 cars

COYOTE (Fresno County)

West side of Highway 168, 68 miles northeast of Fresno. Good cross-country ski area; no snowmobiles. Sled slope.

Information:

Pineridge Ranger District

559-855-5360

Open every day from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Capacity 30 cars

EASTWOOD (Fresno County)

Highway 168, 75 miles northeast of Fresno, at Huntington Lake Road. Groomed snowmobile trails; cross-country skiing. Snow play; no sled slope.

Information:

Pineridge Ranger District

559-855-5360

Open every day from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Capacity 30 cars

HUNTINGTON LAKE (Fresno County)

Huntington Lake Road, 3 miles past Eastwood Sno-Park. Groomed snowmobile trails; cross-country skiing. Snow play; no sled slope.

Information:

Pineridge Ranger District

559-855-5360

Open every day from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Capacity 50 cars

TAMARACK (Fresno County)

East side of Highway 168, 68 miles northeast of Fresno. Groomed snowmobile trails; cross-country skiing. Snow play; no sled slope.

Information:

Pineridge Ranger District

559-855-5360

Open every day from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Capacity 30 cars

ROCK CREEK (Mono County)

Off Highway 395, 25 miles north of Bishop (seven miles up Rock Creek Lake Road from Tom's Place). Upper parking lot for day use only. Excellent cross-country skiing. No snowmobiles. Good snow play; no sled slope.

Information:

U.S. Forest Service

760-873-2500

Capacity 30 cars

DONNER SUMMIT (Nevada County)

Highway I-80, Castle Peak exit, on frontage road south of freeway, just beyond Boreal Inn (Sno-Park permits available). Trails are on north side of freeway. Very popular cross-country ski area. Snow play at south parking lot. Some snowmobiling. Crowded on weekends. Avalanche and rock fall danger on steeper slopes.

Information:

U.S. Forest Service

530-587-3558

Capacity 100 cars

YUBA GAP (Nevada County)

Highway I-80, Yuba Gap exit; south of freeway, at National American Snowflower Campground. Snow play area, sled slopes. No snowmobiles/motorized off-road vehicles.

Hot food, Sno-Park permits and local information available at the Snowflower Country Store,

530-389-8241

No buses. No overnight parking

Capacity 200 cars

BLACKWOOD CANYON (Placer County)

West side of Highway 89, three miles south of Tahoe City. Avoid steeper terrain on south side of canyon (avalanche danger). Cross-country skiing; snowmobiling. Poor snow play.

Information:

U.S. Forest Service

530-573-2600

Capacity 15 cars

YUBA PASS (Sierra County)

South side of Highway 49 at Yuba Pass.

Cross-country ski trails north of highway. Extensive groomed snowmobile trails. Good snow play; no sled slope. Ample parking.

Information:

U.S. Forest Service

530-994-3401

Capacity 30 cars

HIGHWAY 108 (Tuolumne County)

Highway 108 at winter closure gate, six miles past Strawberry. Groomed snowmobile trails; limited snow play; cross-country skiing. Some overnight parking.

Information:

U.S. Forest Service

209-965-3434

Capacity 50 cars

For more information about California State Parks, visit us online at:

<http://cal-parks.ca.gov/>

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